

Learn about Aruba aloe farming history



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Apple shareholders reject proposal to scrap company's diversity programs

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer

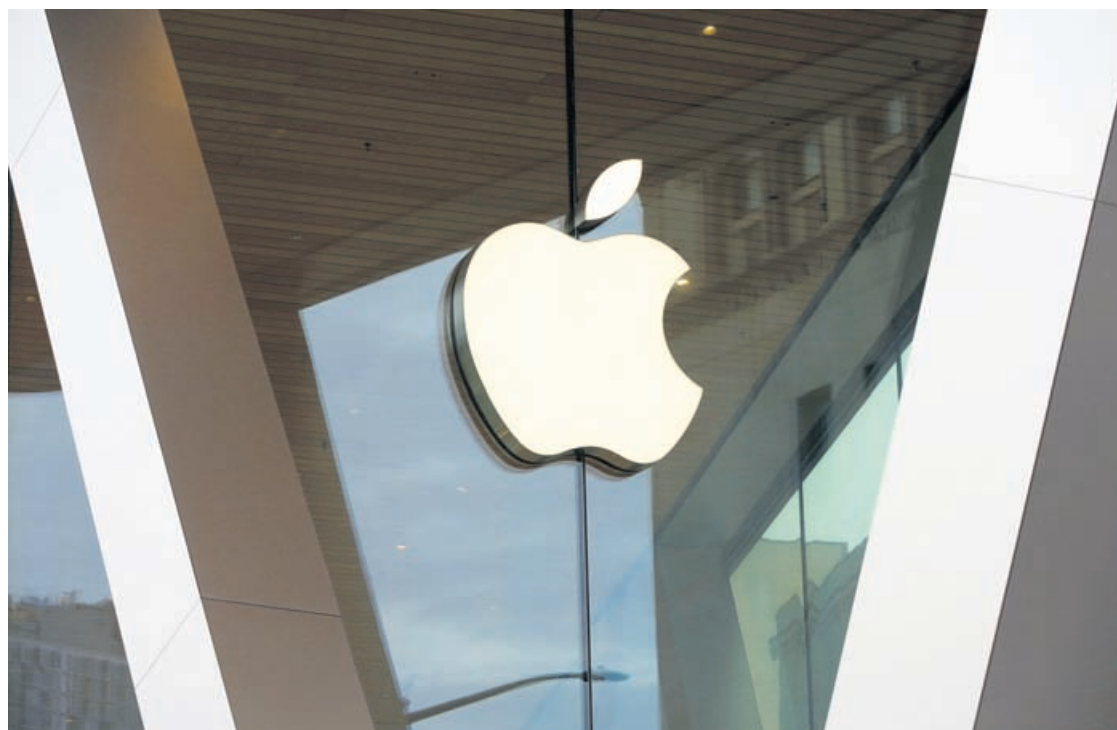
Apple shareholders rebuffed an attempt to pressure the technology trendsetter into joining President Donald Trump's push to scrub corporate programs designed to diversify its workforce.

The proposal drafted by the National Center for Public Policy Research a self-described conservative think tank urged Apple to follow a litany of high-profile companies that have retreated from diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives currently in the Trump administration's crosshairs.

After a brief presentation about the anti-DEI proposal, Apple announced shareholders had rejected it without disclosing the vote tally.

The preliminary results will be outlined in a regulatory later Tuesday.

The outcome vindicated Apple management's decision to stand behind its



An Apple logo adorns the facade of the downtown Brooklyn Apple store on March 14, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

diversity commitment even though Trump asked the U.S. Department of Justice to look into whether these types of programs have discriminated against some employees whose race or

gender aren't aligned with the initiative's goals. But Apple CEO Tim Cook has maintained a cordial relationship with Trump since his first term in office, an alliance that so far has

helped the company skirt tariffs on its iPhones made in China.

After Cook and Trump met last week, Apple on Monday announced it will invest \$500 billion in the U.S.

and create 20,000 more jobs during the next five years a commitment applauded by the president.

Tuesday's shareholder vote came a month after the same group presented a similar proposal during Costco's annual meeting, only to have it overwhelmingly rejected.

That snub didn't discourage the National Center for Public Policy Research from confronting Apple about its DEI program in a pre-recorded presentation by Stefan Padfield, executive director of the think tank's Free Enterprise Project, who asserted "forced diversity is bad for business."

In the presentation, Padfield attacked Apple's diversity commitments for being out of line with recent court rulings and said the programs expose the Cupertino, California, company to an onslaught of potential lawsuits for alleged discrimination. □

Judge gives Trump administration two days to release billions of dollars in blocked foreign aid

By **ELLEN KNICKMEYER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday gave the Trump administration less than two days to release billions of dollars in U.S. foreign aid, saying the administration had given no sign of complying with his nearly two-week-old court order to ease its funding freeze. The lawsuit was filed by nonprofit organizations over the cutoff of foreign assistance through the U.S. Agency for International Development and State Department, which followed a Jan. 20 executive order by President Donald Trump targeting what he portrayed as wasteful programs that do not correspond to his foreign policy goals. Nonprofit groups and businesses that receive federal money for work abroad said the freeze breaks federal law and has shut down funding for

even the most urgent life-saving programs abroad. Those USAID and State partners say the administration has stiffed them on billions of dollars in money already owed, forcing them to lay off tens of thousands of staffers and pushing some organizations toward financial ruin. U.S. District Judge Amir H. Ali on Feb. 13 had ordered the administration at least temporarily to get funding flowing again, including to make good on its bills. Despite the order, USAID staffers and the businesses and nonprofit groups say they know of no payments that have gotten through. "I'm not sure why I can't get a straight answer from you on this: Are you aware of an unfreezing of the disbursement of funds for those contracts and agreements that were frozen before Feb. 13," the judge asked Indraneel Sur, the lawyer for the government. □



Retired United States Agency for International Development worker Julie Hanson Swanson, left, join supporters of USAID workers outside the USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian affairs office in Washington, Friday, Feb. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

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White House says it 'will determine' which news outlets cover Trump, rotating traditional ones

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

The White House said Tuesday that its officials "will determine" which news outlets can regularly cover President Donald Trump up close — a sharp break from a century of tradition in which a pool of independently chosen news organizations go where the chief executive does and hold him accountable on behalf of regular Americans. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the changes would rotate traditional outlets from the group and include some streaming services. Leavitt cast the change as a modernization of the press pool, saying the move would be more inclusive and restore "access back to the American people" who elected Trump. But media experts said the move raised troubling First Amendment is-



White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt speaks during a press briefing in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House, Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

sues because the president is choosing who covers him. "The White House press team, in this administra-

tion, will determine who gets to enjoy the very privileged and limited access in spaces such as Air Force

One and the Oval Office," Leavitt said at a daily briefing. She added at another point: "A select group

of D.C.-based journalists should no longer have a monopoly of press access at the White House."

Leavitt said the White House will "double down" on its decision to bar The Associated Press from many presidential events, a departure from the time-tested and sometimes contentious practice for more than a century of a pool of journalists from every platform sharing the presidents' words and activities with news outlets and congressional offices that can't attend the close-quarter events. Traditionally, the members of the pool decide who goes in small spaces such as the Oval Office and Air Force One. "It's beyond time that the White House press operation reflects the media habits of the American people in 2025, not 1925," Leavitt said. □

Southwest Airlines flight abruptly rises to avoid another plane crossing Chicago runway

By COREY WILLIAMS and
KATHLEEN FOODY
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Pilots on a Southwest Airlines flight attempting to land at Chicago's Midway Airport were forced to make the plane climb suddenly to avoid another aircraft crossing the runway. Airport webcam video posted to X shows the Southwest plane appear to briefly touch down about 8:50 a.m. CST Tuesday before its nose was abruptly pulled up as the second plane is seen on the runway. Southwest Flight 2504 safely landed "after the crew performed a precautionary go-around to avoid

a possible conflict with another aircraft that entered the runway," an airline spokesperson said in an email. "The crew followed safety procedures and the flight landed without incident." Audio recording of communication between the crew and the tower includes the ground tower employee breaking off mid-message to the plane. The pilot then said "Southwest 2504 going around" and followed directions to climb back to 3,000 feet. Seconds later, the audio captures the pilot asking the tower: "Southwest 2504, how'd that happen?" The second plane, described as a business jet,

entered the runway without authorization, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Flexjet, the plane's owner, said the company is aware "of the occurrence in Chicago." "Flexjet adheres to the highest safety standards and we are conducting a thorough investigation," a spokesperson said in a statement. "Any action to rectify and ensure the highest safety standards will be taken." Both the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board say they are investigating the incident. The Southwest Flight was enroute to Midway Airport from Omaha, Nebraska, according to FlightAware.

The past few weeks have seen four major aviation disasters in North America. They include the Feb. 6 crash of a commuter plane in Alaska that killed all 10 people on board and the

Jan. 26 midair collision between an Army helicopter and an American Airlines flight at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport that killed all 67 aboard the two aircraft. □



The air traffic control tower stands at Chicago's Midway International Airport, March 12, 2013.

Associated Press

Feud between New York's governor and her No. 2 boils over

By **ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE**
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A simmering feud between New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and her handpicked lieutenant governor, Antonio Delgado, has boiled over after months of discord between the two Democrats culminated in what looked like a big breakup.

Delgado, who was appointed by Hochul in 2022 after her previous lieutenant governor was indicted, announced Monday that he would not run for reelection alongside Hochul in 2026, though he said in a post on X that he was "deeply committed" to finishing his current term.

He didn't give a specific reason for giving up the job, but he took a general swipe at the current state of affairs, saying New Yorkers deserves "more leaders in government willing to hold themselves accountable to the people and only to the people."

A little while later, Hochul's office hit back.

"Today, Antonio Delgado finally said out loud what has been obvious for quite some time: he is simply not interested in doing the job of the Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York. Governor Hochul had al-



New York's Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, left, holds his first news conference with Gov. Kathy Hochul after his swearing in ceremony, making him the state's first person of Latino heritage to serve in statewide office, May 25, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

ready begun taking steps to identify a new running mate for 2026," Hochul's communications director, Anthony Hoglebe, said in a statement.

Hoglebe said the governor's office would start handing off Delgado's responsibilities to someone else, to make sure the job is "no longer neglected."

"Governor Hochul wishes him the best in his future endeavors," Hoglebe added. The split was a long time

coming.

The fissures became visible last year ahead the presidential election, when Delgado called for former President Joe Biden to drop his reelection bid just as Hochul had become a big Biden surrogate on the cable news circuit. Delgado also appeared to conduct his own effort to help Democratic congressional candidates in New York while the governor was meant to be leading the charge in

the down-ballot races.

After the election, the younger Delgado wrote an op-ed for The New York Times that called for his party to head in a different direction, closing his piece with this line: "A new path is both necessary and possible, but we will not chart it with the same politicians telling the same old stories. We are ready for the next generation."

He also got out in front of Hochul on New York City

Mayor Eric Adams this month when he called on Adams to resign as the governor was taking a more measured approach. The very public difference of opinion on Adams led to Hoglebe releasing a statement that said "Lieutenant Governor Delgado does not now and has not ever spoken on behalf of this administration."

For Hochul, the fact that her lieutenant was appearing to chart his own course underscored a more pressing political reality. She is heading toward what's expected to be a tough reelection fight next year as serious challengers wait in the wings.

Delgado has been rumored to be mulling a challenge to his boss and, in his statement Monday, made clear that "all options are on the table."

"I am determined to be your voice in state government now and in the future," he wrote.

Before becoming lieutenant governor, Delgado served one term in the U.S. House, representing a district in the Hudson Valley and the Catskills north of New York City. Since becoming lieutenant governor, his public profile has been limited. □

Boston ordered to change its elections practices following ballot problems in November

By **MICHAEL CASEY**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The Massachusetts secretary of state's office has ordered an overhaul of Boston's elections practices after some city precincts didn't initially have enough printed ballots on Election Day. Secretary of State William Galvin said Monday that an investigation determined that even though the city had a sufficient number of ballots in November, it failed to provide enough to several precincts ahead of time. State election laws require that a ballot be available for every voter.

"This resulted in voters in the City experiencing needless and unacceptable delays in voting and, in some

cases, disenfranchisement because the voter was unable to wait," said the report's author, Rebecca

Murray, who is the general counsel to the secretary of the commonwealth.

The city, which only uses paper ballots, had planned to deliver an amount equal to about 80% of registered voters in each precinct. But a calculation error led to far fewer being sent, according to the investigation report.

Poor communication between the city and polling stations exacerbated the problem, Murray found.

"A major problem that was evident was the inability of the Boston Election Department to directly communicate, in real time, with

each voting precinct in order to determine and prioritize those locations that had run out of ballots or had an immediate need for additional ballots," she concluded.

Mayor Michelle Wu said the city has worked with Galvin's office to come up with "corrective actions" to ensure that the problem doesn't happen again. She also said they are working to modernize the office, including developing a system to ensure that the Election Department can field and respond to every call to it, whether from poll workers or voters, are received. □



People wait in line to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, in the East Boston neighborhood of Boston.

Associated Press

Medics say 6 babies have died from the cold in Gaza as displaced people shelter in tents and rubble

By WAFAA SHURAF and
SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip
(AP) —

At least six infants have died from hypothermia in the last two weeks in the Gaza Strip, where hundreds of thousands of people are living in tent camps and war-damaged buildings during a fragile ceasefire, Palestinian medics said Tuesday.

The coastal territory experiences cold, wet winters, with temperatures dropping below 10 degrees Celsius (50 F) at night and storms blowing in from the Mediterranean Sea. The last few days have been especially cold.

Yusuf al-Shinbary woke up in his family's tent just after midnight on Tuesday to find that his 2-month-old daughter, Sham, was cold to the touch. He could feel no heartbeat.

"Yesterday, I was playing with her," he said. "I was happy with her. She was a beautiful child, like the moon." Dr. Ahmed al-Farah, the head of the pediatric department at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where her body was taken, said she did not have any illness but died from severe cold because she was in a tent. He said the hospital treated another two infants for frostbite.

Saeed Salah, of the Patient's Friends Hospital in Gaza City, said five infants aged one month or younger have died from the cold over the last two weeks, including a 1-month-old who died on Monday. He said another child has been placed on a ventilator.

Zaher al-Wahedi, head of the Gaza Health Ministry's records department, said it has recorded 15 deaths from hypothermia this winter, all of them children.

The ceasefire that paused 16 months of war between Israel and Hamas militants has allowed a surge in humanitarian aid, mainly food, but residents say there are still shortages of blankets and warm clothing, and little wood avail-



A two-month-old Palestinian baby, Eila Sarsak, receives treatment in an incubator at the Patient Friends Hospital in Gaza City, where she has been in intensive care for ten days due to the effects of the cold weather, on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

able for fires.

There's been no central electricity in Gaza since the first few days of the war, and fuel for generators is scarce. Many families huddle on damp sand or bare concrete.

"It's incredibly cold," Rosalia Bollen, a spokesperson for the United Nations children's agency, said earlier this month. "I have no clue how people can sleep at night in their makeshift tents." Israel's military offensive, launched in response to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack, was among the deadliest and most destructive in recent history. It pounded large areas of Gaza into rubble. The hundreds of thousands of people who have been able to return to northern Gaza under the ceasefire have settled wherever they can amid the ruins.

The ceasefire's first phase will end on Saturday and may not be extended. If fighting resumes, the current flow of humanitarian aid is expected to drop dramatically.

Even if the truce endures, it's unclear when anything in Gaza will be rebuilt. The World Bank has estimated the cost of reconstruction at over \$50 billion, and it could take years just to clear the rubble.

Israel blames the destruc-

tion on Hamas because the militants positioned tunnels, rocket launchers and other military infrastructure in residential areas.

Hamas has accused Israel of delaying the entry of mobile homes and tents in violation of the ceasefire. Israel denies the allegations and accuses Hamas of violating the agreement. Israel held up the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners last weekend to protest Hamas' practice of parading hostages before crowds in public spectacles during their release.

Hamas-led fighters killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted around 250 hostages. □

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South Korea's Yoon defends his martial law decree as impeachment trial nears end

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — In a final statement at his impeachment trial, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol defended his martial law decree that plunged the country into chaos as a bid to inform the public of the danger of the opposition-controlled parliament as he vowed Tuesday to push for political reform if reinstated.

Yoon spoke at the Constitutional Court as it wrapped up arguments in his impeachment trial. The court is expected to rule by mid-March on whether to remove Yoon from office or reinstate his presidential powers.

The liberal opposition-controlled National Assembly impeached Yoon, a conservative, after his short-lived Dec. 3 martial law decree caused political turmoil, rattled its financial markets and hurt its international image. He has been separately arrested and indicted on rebellion charges in connection with his decree. If convicted, he would face the death penalty or life imprisonment.

Yoon has denied any wrongdoing and blamed the main liberal opposition



A TV screen shows footage of impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's address at the final hearing of his trial during a news program at a bus terminal in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

Democratic Party, which obstructed his agenda, impeached many senior officials and slashed key parts of the government's budget bill, for the political crisis. During his marital law announcement, Yoon called the assembly "a den of criminals" and "anti-state forces."

"The reason why I declared martial law was because of desperation as I could no longer neglect a do-or-die

crisis facing this country," Yoon said. "I tried to inform the people of these anti-state acts of wickedness by the mammoth opposition party and appealed to the people to stop it with intense surveillance and criticism."

After declaring martial law, Yoon sent troops and police officers to the assembly, but enough lawmakers still managed to enter an assembly chamber to vote

down Yoon's decree unanimously, forcing his Cabinet to lift it.

Yoon reiterated Tuesday that he had no intentions of disrupting assembly work and that deploying troops and police was meant to maintain order. But some commanders of military units sent to the assembly have testified that Yoon ordered them to drag out lawmakers to prevent them from overturning his de-

cree.

During the hearing, Democratic Party lawmaker Jung Chung-rai said that Yoon must be dismissed as he undermined the constitution by trying to seal the assembly and suppress its authority with armed troops. Jung also said Yoon's imposition of martial law disturbed public order because South Korea wasn't in an emergency that required such a drastic step.

"Yoon Suk Yeol is still refusing to have self-reflection and soul-searching and repeating sophistry and crafty remarks that say his emergency martial law was a high-level act of governance," Jung said. "We should dismiss him as soon as possible to get the Republic of Korea back on track."

Massive rallies by opponents and supporters of Yoon have divided the streets of Seoul and other major South Korean cities. Whatever the Constitutional Court decides, experts say it will likely further polarize the country and intensify its conservative-liberal divide. If Yoon is formally thrown out of office, a national election must take place within two months to find his successor. □

The main ingredients in Sierra Leone's kush are synthetic opioids and cannabinoids, report finds

By **WILSON MCMAKIN**

Associated Press



A young man smokes Kush, a derivative of cannabis mixed with synthetic drugs like fentanyl and tramadol and chemicals like formaldehyde, at a hideout in Freetown, Sierra Leone, April 29, 2024.

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — A new report released Tuesday by an anti-transnational crime group has identified the core chemical components of kush, a synthetic drug that has swept through Sierra Leone and the region in the past few years.

The report by the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime conducted the first known testing of the most common varieties of kush available in Sierra Leone and neighboring West African countries and found that it contained either nitazenes or synthetic cannabinoids. "Nitazenes are potent and

often deadly synthetic opioids that have spread rapidly across global retail drug markets, including European countries, particularly since 2022," the report reads. "Illustratively, in 2023 in Estonia and Latvia, 48% and 28% of drug deaths, respectively, were attributable to nitazenes. One of the nitazenes detected in kush is 25 times more potent than fentanyl."

Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio last year declared a war on kush, calling it an epidemic and a national threat. He launched a task force on drug and substance

abuse, promising to lead a government approach focused on prevention and treatment involving law enforcement and community engagement.

"We believe kush is the first case of nitazenes penetrating West Africa's drug markets. This reflects global trends, which show nitazenes and associated fatalities surging globally since late 2022," the report stated.

When contacted by phone, one of the authors of the report, Lucia Bird Ruiz-Benitez de Lugo, described the path that kush is taking to arrive in West Africa. □



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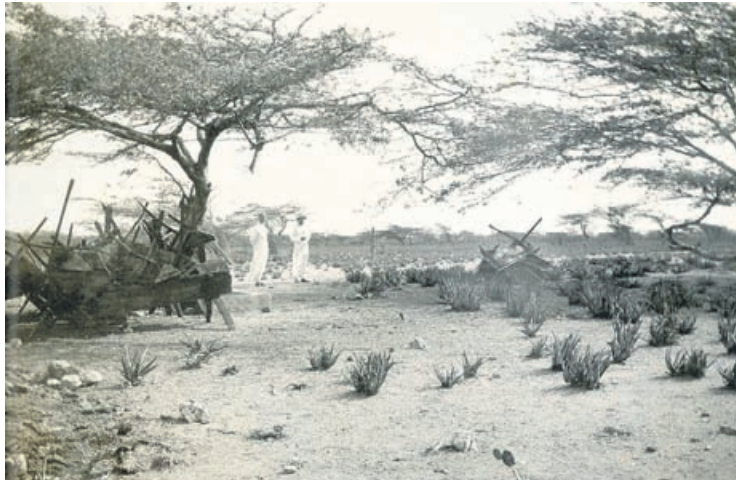


GO-KART RENTALS

Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is



also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan

known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!



The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. □

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.





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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Barcelo Aruba All Inclusive!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love

for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to

guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Joel and Mrs. Bonnie Bibula from Staten Island, New York, United States.

Mrs. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and

staff members of Barcelo Aruba bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's weather
- Barcelo its amazing staff
- Aruba's restaurants
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A quick snack for the road: Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

4 cups of wheat flour
1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp sugar
0.5 cup of melted butter
1 cup water
1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point,

your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.



Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the

pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □

Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two "hidden" natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known "Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to pur-

chase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and

you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

Picture of cave pool is credited to
RockaBeach Tours



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Earthy homes, lasting charm, and sustainable living

Episode CCXCII -292

The narrative shared through Etnia Nativa emphasizes the importance of reclaiming and recognizing the island's cultural roots and heritage, which have often been overshadowed by colonial history. The platform actively engages in promoting the value of rediscovering native traditions, history and identities, while highlighting the importance of moving beyond colonial influences.

In this episode we will share a little bit about the traditional mud houses as sustainable buildings. Around the world, people are returning to this overlooked, age-old construction material since mud buildings are perfect at keeping us cool in summer and warm in winter, and withstanding extreme weather.

This type of building was practiced throughout native America and in Aruba this method is known as "cas di torto", or "cas di lodo", meaning mud house, a traditional construction style made out of grass, water and clay, also called adobe.

The technique is an amalgam of traditional Caquetian dwellings and new world architecture. A similar method was practiced in Paraguaná, a Venezuelan peninsula on the opposite side of our island, during the 18th century, where it is known as "bajareque". It is Spanish, probably a word of Caribbean Taino origin. Although it was first used by indigenous groups, it was also the primary choice of European colonizers, who knew how to take advantage of a diverse selection of native materials and techniques. Many of these houses were built by the less fortunate on our island until 1925. Since then, this construction method has fallen into disuse.

Construction began by forming the skeleton of what would become the house, using wooden posts placed at intervals of half a meter. A framework of branches is placed in between. Then covered by earth, water mixed with grass fibers, like dry corn stalks, Panicum



varieties or other available natural fibers that help bond the clay mixture. Later, when introduced also Aloe Vera juice where spread over the clay mixture. This gave it additional strength and offered protection from the elements.

For the roof, strips of cactus wood were placed on the posts and beams where clay was put on top. At first the roof covering consisted of corn stalks; later it was replaced by the heart of the columnar cactus (Cereus). The floor was made of clay mixed with lime cement or cow dung.

In the rest of indigenous America, roofs were built with protective gabled covers, made of palm leaves forming partitions and walls with a mat formwork filled with a mortar of plant origin compacted by pounding with a tamper. This was also used for internal furniture made entirely of available materials. In Aruba, the "torto" houses were generally divided into a kitchen, a living room, a terrace and a bedroom. In the kitchen there was a wooden or metal barrel to store water, which was taken from the rain ponds. For this reason, a thick clay wall was built. These houses were often home to large families and people slept on mats on the floor.

While this construction technique was first used by indigenous groups, later, many of the mud houses were replaced by stone houses. It can be combined with rammed earth, ado-

be and brick or stone bases and subgrades, in order to give greater durability to the structure.

We need to rethink whether to return to build with mud, modernizing old techniques which could be part of the solution to mitigate the consequences of climate change. The breathable nature of mud allows moisture to enter the house, improving indoor air quality and preventing the build-up of moisture and mold that cement traps and incubates.

Mud walls have a high thermal mass, meaning they slowly absorb heat from solar radiation and store it, releasing it at night when temperatures are cooler – which is a solution in tropical climates, reducing the constant use of air conditioning. □

If you enjoyed reading our stories and are interested in learning more regarding the true identity of Aruba, we recommend you to book a visit to Etnia Nativa—the only "living museum of its kind in the Caribbean"—a fascinating choice, a trend setter since 1994 as co-founder of Arikock National Park, Archaeological Museum and Artisan Foundation among others. Etnia Nativa shares valuable knowledge and connects you to the ancient island's spirit and soul.

Whats App+297 592 2702
etniana03@gmail.com

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas



Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko



The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the

way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Kododo



These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus*

rus arubensis, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole



The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

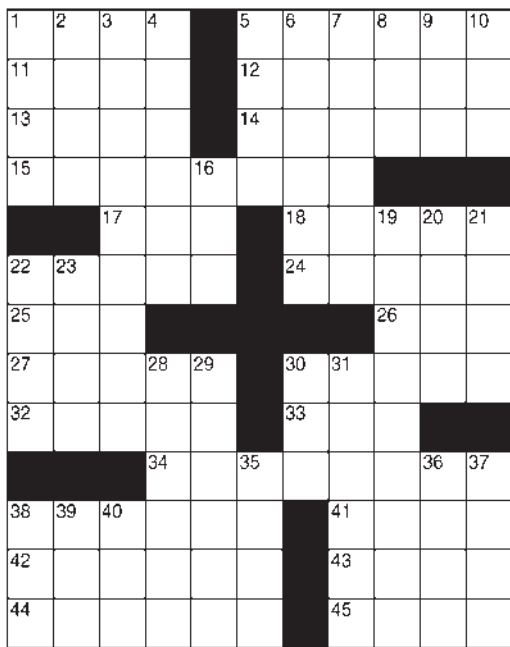
Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay.

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS **DOWN**

- 1 Make finer
5 Salt
11 Pale tan
12 Duds
13 Lewd look
14 Spurred on
15 It ends when the parachute opens
17 Summer sign
18 Boosts
22 Sound from a smithy
24 Singer McLachlan
25 Try for office
26 Sense of self
27 Spanish hero
30 Give it —!
32 Kagan of the Supreme Court
33 Bar topic
34 Bahamas city
38 Crafty
41 Sketched
42 Truck fuel
43 Radius partner
44 Ignores the limit
45 Track figures
- 1 Introspective study
2 Bakery worker
3 Like many jobs in the gig economy
4 Soup holder
5 Long story
6 Coral islands
7 Romas nation
8 Jar part
9 Smelter supply
10 Stop signal
16 Sailing hazard
19 Democracies, collectively
20 Gift attachments
21 Bar order
22 Ontario tribe
23 Temporary calm
28 Fill
29 Moved quickly
30 Hoppy brew
31 OutKast, e.g.
35 Snaky fish
36 Tear
37 "— brillig ..."
38 Spots on TV
39 Try the tea
40 Golf prop



2-29

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

PMNNE LJDBPIME BG MAA EGF

A R M N A J Z S X L G D Z G Z

WRLDFMDE 29! — WDGU EGFD

NFKKAR WDJRZIX

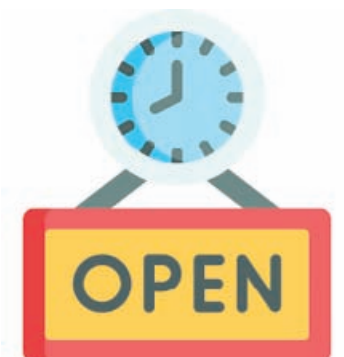
Cryptoquote: LOVE MAKES YOUR SOUL CRAWL OUT FROM ITS HIDING PLACE. — ZORA NEA F HURSTON

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| | | | ARR | DEPT | BERTH | |
|-----|----|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| MON | 24 | EURODAM | 07.00 | 16.00 | B | 1 |
| | | RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS | 08.00 | 21.00 | C | 1 |
| | | NORWEGIAN JEWEL | 13.00 | 21.00 | I | 1 |
| TUE | 25 | AIDALUNA | 11.00 | **** | B | 1 |
| | | CARNIVAL VISTA | 13.00 | 23.00 | C | 1 |
| | | NORWEGIAN VIVA | 13.00 | 21.00 | I | 1 |
| WED | 26 | AIDALUNA - Dept. | **** | 20.00 | B | |
| | | OASIS OF THE SEAS | 08.00 | 21.00 | I | 1 |
| THU | 27 | ROTTERDAM | 08.00 | 17.00 | B | 1 |
| | | CARNIVAL VENEZIA | 09.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 |

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Lester Holt to step down as anchor of NBC's flagship 'Nightly News' after a decade

By W. GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC's veteran Lester Holt is stepping down as anchor of the network's flagship "Nightly News" broadcast in the coming months.

Holt, who has been the face of "Nightly News" for a decade, won't be leaving NBC altogether, however. In a memo to staff Monday, he said he would be expanding



NBC news anchor Lester Holt speaks at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner at the Washington Hilton, April 27, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

his work on NBC's "Dateline," taking on a full-time role.

The transition is expected to take place early this summer. No firm date or successor for "NBC Nightly News" has been named yet.

"It has truly been the honor of a lifetime to work with each of you every day, keeping journalism as our true north

and our viewers at the center of everything we do," Holt wrote in his note thanking colleagues. "A smile comes to my face when I think that with Nightly News, and Dateline, I have now anchored two of the most successful and iconic television news programs in broadcast history."

Janelle Rodriguez, executive vice president of NBC News Programming, applauded Holt's legacy at "Nightly News" and reiterated that the anchor will stay at NBC "for years to come."

"Quite simply, Lester is the beating heart of this news organization," Rodriguez wrote in a prepared statement.

Holt, 65, joined NBC back in 2000. He became the permanent anchor of "Nightly News" in June 2015 — replacing Brian Williams after anchoring weekend editions of the show for eight years. And he has been the principal anchor of "Dateline" since September 2011.

According to NBC, "Nightly News" currently averages at around 7 million viewers each week. The network says the roots of its flagship show date back to 1948, when NBC first began broadcasting regularly-scheduled news programming each night. And the "NBC Nightly News" name was born in 1970.

NBC's "Dateline" series, currently in its 33rd season, debuted in 1992. The series has made a name for itself in true crime programming — which has expanded into a top-ranked podcast and some scripted television content, including a spinoff of "The Thing About Pam." But "Dateline" also covers a mix of breaking news, investigative journalism and other human interest stories. □



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Singer-musician Rhiannon Giddens calls off Kennedy Center show, citing Trump takeover

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Award-winning singer-musician Rhiannon Giddens has become the latest artist to call off an appearance at the Kennedy Center, which has been in upheaval since President Donald Trump forced out the center's leadership and was elected chair of the board of trustees. Trump's takeover of the center is part of his broad campaign against "woke" culture.

"I have decided to cancel my show at The Kennedy Center on May 11, 2025 and move it to The Anthem," she wrote on social media, referring to a separate Washington, D.C. venue.

"The Kennedy Center show was booked long

before the current administration decided to take over this previously non-political institution."

Giddens is an eclectic roots music performer known for co-founding the Carolina Chocolate Drops and for such collaborations with Francesco Tur-

risi as the Grammy winning "They're Calling Me Home." In 2022, she helped write the Pulitzer Prize winning opera "Omar." She is also a recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" grant. Actor Issa Rae, author Louise Penny and the rock band Low Cut Connie also

have canceled scheduled Kennedy Center events. Singer-songwriter Victoria Clark went ahead with her Feb. 15 show, but on stage wore a T-shirt reading "ANTI TRUMP AF." Supported by government money and private donations and attracting millions of visitors each year, the Kennedy Center is a 100-foot high complex featuring a concert hall, opera house and theater, along with a lecture hall, meeting spaces and a "Millennium Stage" that has been the site for free shows.

Until Trump in his first term, presidents have routinely attended the honors ceremony, even in the presence of artists who disagreed with them politically. □



Rhiannon Giddens performs during rehearsal for the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular in Boston, on July 3, 2018.

Associated Press



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Packers propose banning the tush push used so successfully by the Eagles

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Green Bay Packers are proposing an end to the tush push play the Philadelphia Eagles have used so successfully at the goal line and in short-yardage situations, including during their victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl 59.

Green Bay general manager Brian Gutekunst confirmed Tuesday the Packers had submitted a proposal to ban the play, a modified quarterback sneak where two teammates behind Jalen Hurts push him forward to help him try to gain the yardage necessary for a first down or touchdown. "Yeah, I'm aware of it," Gutekunst said during his session with reporters at the NFL scouting combine. "We really haven't had very many discussions about it. I'm sure we will over the next few weeks as we head



Philadelphia Eagles linebacker Zack Baun (53) celebrates after intercepting a pass during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

into the owner's meetings. So I'm aware that we did,

but really haven't had many discussions about it."

According to NFL Network and the Washington Post,

league executive Troy Vincent said Monday that a team submitted a proposal to ban the play. Although Vincent didn't identify the team, The Athletic first reported that it was the Packers.

NFL owners could vote on the proposal when they meet next month in Florida. The tush push has become synonymous with the Eagles. Perhaps no example summed up how much the play can be a challenge for Eagles opponents quite like when Philadelphia used it against Washington in the NFC championship game. The Commanders jumped offside four times in a sequence of five plays while trying to stop the tush push, earning them a warning from the referee that he could award the Eagles a touchdown if the Commanders did it again. □

Ravens GM calls sexual misconduct allegations against Justin Tucker 'concerning'

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Baltimore Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta considers the mounting allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior against kicker Justin Tucker "serious" and "concerning."

He still wants to see what the NFL's investigation reveals before making any decision about one of the Ravens' steadiest players. "The allegations are serious, concerning. The amount of allegations are serious, concerning," DeCosta said Tuesday at the NFL's annual scouting combine in Indianapolis. "I think we're fortunate the league is doing an investigation, we'll

wait as patiently as we can for as much information as we can and we'll make a decision based on that."

The Baltimore Banner reported that 16 massage therapists from eight spas and wellness centers in the Baltimore area have accused Tucker of the inappropriate behavior.

League officials have reportedly spoken with at least three of the women so far. DeCosta said he's also met with the league's investigators.

Tucker has posted a statement on social media calling the allegations "unequivocally false."

DeCosta said he became aware of the accusations before a Baltimore media

outlet was about to publish a story, and he met with Tucker. But he declined to provide details Tuesday of that conversation.

While the Ravens have discussed their zero-tolerance policy previously, DeCosta also declined to explain specifics about how it could pertain to this situation, acknowledging instead that the team considers each case individually.

"I think the biggest thing we have to do first of all is look at every single case differently," he said. "There are no absolutes, and I think in this case we're still awaiting as much information as possible. Again, we're fortunate the league has come down to Baltimore. I

met with the league, I believe the league has met with other people in Baltimore as well. We'll wait for the details of that investigation and make a decision

based on that."

Tucker has been one of the league's most reliable kickers over his 13-year career, all with Baltimore. □



Baltimore Ravens kicker Justin Tucker watches his kick during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Dec. 1, 2024, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

The 2-point shot is less and less utilized in the NBA. The debate about whether that's good rages on

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA is on the cusp of accomplishing something that it hasn't seen before. The jury's still out on whether it's a good thing. With about seven weeks left in the season, 2-point shots are accounting for 49% of scoring. And if that stat holds up there's no indication that it won't this will be the first season in which 2-pointers make up less than half of the league's point production. The current breakdown: a record-low 49% of scoring comes from 2-pointers, a record-high 36% comes from 3-pointers, and a near-record-low 15% comes from the foul line. Those numbers are just more proof of how the 3-point shot continues permeating the game, and that's why plenty of people are wondering aloud if the league has a real problem on its hands.

"I don't have any problem with guys and teams shooting a lot of 3s," said Golden State's Stephen Curry, the league's all-time leader in 3-pointers and someone closing in on 4,000 such makes for his regular-season career. "Obviously, that's the way that I play, and I love that factor in the game. But you've also got to put the work in behind the scenes to take full advantage of it."



Golden State Warriors guard Brandin Podziemski (2) shoots a 3-point basket next to Dallas Mavericks forward Olivier-Maxence Prosper (8) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

This isn't a new phenomenon.

Barring some sort of major shift in how the game is played over the next seven weeks, the league is on pace to break the record for 3-pointers in a season (it'll be the 15th consecutive season in which the 3s-per-game record falls) and 3-pointers attempted in a season (a new mark will be set there for the 19th time in the last 22 seasons).

Boston is leading the 3-point assault this year, though the Celtics are hardly the only 3-happy team. But the

defending NBA champions are clearly more reliant on the shot than anyone else, with 46% of their points this season coming from beyond the arc. They'll almost certainly become only the third team in NBA history to finish a season with more points from 3s than 2s, joining the 2018-19 Houston Rockets and 2020-21 Utah Jazz.

"Everybody can't play the same way," Celtics All-Star forward and two-time Olympic gold medalist Jayson Tatum said. "You've got to have the right personnel.

But, you know, the way we play works for us. So, we play to our strengths."

The Celtics are the only franchise in NBA history to have eight different players make 100 3s in a season; they've done it in each of the last two seasons and are on pace to do it again this year.

For them, the 3-pointer is the golden ticket; they're 33-6 this season when they make at least 17 3s, and just 8-10 when they don't make that many.

They had five 3-point shooters on the floor together last

season and the result was an NBA championship. It was, at times, impossible to guard. Golden State rode the brilliance of Curry and Klay Thompson to four NBA titles in their years as the Warriors' "Splash Brothers," a duo that helped usher in a new era of 3-point reliance. And the math is simple: shooting 40% on 3s gets you more points per attempt than shooting 50% on 2s does.

"Right now, I think the defense has to catch up and maybe NBA teams will shoot less 3s," San Antonio star Victor Wembanyama said at the All-Star break, before he was shut down for the year with deep vein thrombosis in his right shoulder. "But analytics back it up, so it makes sense."

Wembanyama was averaging 8.8 3-point tries per game this season, the most of any center in the league, and his 403 attempts on the season from beyond the arc is still more entering this week than some of the game's best shooters a list of players that includes Phoenix's Devin Booker, the Los Angeles Lakers' Austin Reaves and Miami's Duncan Robinson.

But the numbers say it's a good shot. So, Wembanyama took them. A lot of them. The Spurs, for years, were a team that didn't prioritize the 3-pointer. □

Bryce Harper takes his love for the Phillie Phanatic to the next level with a tattoo



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper makes a selfie with the team mascot, the Phillie Phanatic, during a Major League Baseball news conference, April 16, 2019, on Independence Mall in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Bryce Harper's love for the Phillie Phanatic runs skin deep. Literally.

The Phillies star arrived at spring training sporting a tattoo on his right arm of the team's iconic mascot zooming around on an all-terrain vehicle.

Harper worked with Utah-based tattoo artist Hannah Matthews on the fine-line design. Matthews featured her session with Harper on her Instagram page and included a close-up for Harper's latest ink, located on the outside of his right arm just above the wrist.

The two-time National League MVP and eight-time All-Star has regularly yucked it up with the Phanatic since signing with the Phillies in 2019. Harper sported cleats

and a headband featuring the large, furry, green bird-type creature and wielded a Phanatic-themed bat while facing the New York Mets in London last summer. Harper told MLB.com he had wanted to do something to honor the Phanatic for a while.

"I just love Philly," Harper said. "I love the Phanatic. It's just fun."

The placement of the tattoo is intentional. Harper told MLB.com the idea is the Phanatic will be following the flight of the ball when it leaves the left-handed Harper's bat.

"People can kind of see that as I swing," Harper said.

"Him driving off my arm, I thought it looked pretty cool." □